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**AFGHANISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Saving Lives with Mobile Health Services in Afghanistan

**USAID is providing health services to those most in need.**



Photo credit: WHO/Afghanistan

*Dr Aziza sees around 40 patients every day at a camp for internally displaced persons in Kabul.*

***“I rushed to the mother and gave her baby mouth- to- mouth resuscitation and saved his life.”***

For the past four years, Dr Aziza has been working as a midwife at a mobile clinic in Nasaji-Bagrami camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kabul. Operated by an Afghan NGO Serve Health Relief and Development Organization (SHRDO), the clinic provides basic health services to 450 families living in the camp.

“I have seen a lot of positive change since I started working in this camp,” Dr Aziza says. “Before, people were not taking care of their personal hygiene and knew nothing about family planning or birth control. Now more and more women come to the clinic to seek these services.”

Despite progress in the last decade, maternal mortality rate remains high in Afghanistan. Most of these deaths could be avoided by increasing women’s access to health services with skilled birth attendants.

Although the Nasaji-Bagrami camp clinic does not have the facilities to provide childbirth services, Dr Aziza does what she can to help mothers and babies. She recommends women to go to hospitals and clinics for delivery and informs women about the risks associated with home births.

“One day when I came to the camp I saw one of my regular patients who had just given birth, telling me that the baby’s heart is not beating. I rushed to the mother and gave her baby mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and saved his life. I have also helped other women with their newborn babies,” Dr Aziza says.

Supported by the World Health Organization and funded by USAID during 2014-2015, the mobile clinic also provides life-saving vaccines to children. The mobile health team has been successful in changing the community’s perception about vaccination through health education. After receiving information about the benefits of vaccines, now almost all families come to the clinic regularly to immunize their children.